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News of the HSUS New England Region

Dommers Receives Connecticut Award

John J. Dommers, director of education of the HSUS New England Regional Office, received one of Connecticut's first Environmental Awards from Gov. Thomas Meskill.

The award was presented for "significant contributions to the improvement of the state's environment."

The citation read in part, "Many individual citizens have been involved in environmental education for several years. Without extensive physical and financial resources, these teachers have made a significant impact on the children of our state. One of these teachers is John Dommers of Madison. He has done extensive work with children in our state by developing environmental programs which have received national recognition."

Dommers said the nature education programs he developed while with the Madison school system were built around a nucleus of humane education, which he defines as "helping children develop sympathetic and protective attitudes toward wildlife through direct experience involvement activities."



HSUS's John Dommers (right), director of education for the New England Region, recently received one of Connecticut's first Environmental Awards from Gov. Thomas Meskill.

In the Legislatures Connecticut

Environmental Education—bills are being enacted requiring that environmental education be incorporated in elementary and secondary school curricula. HSUS has been assured that the humane ethic will be included in such education.

Hunting—bills to legalize Sunday hunting, hunting with primitive weapons, and bounties on raccoons have been defeated.

Dog Racing—legalized by the Con-
(Continued on next page.)

HSUS Office Opens In Nature Center

The HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center near East Haddam, Conn., is completed and in use.

The Center is serving as headquarters for the HSUS New England Regional Office, as well as a meeting place for workshops, regional meetings, and other humanitarian functions. It houses a humane education resource library, a special projects area, and an animal artifacts museum.

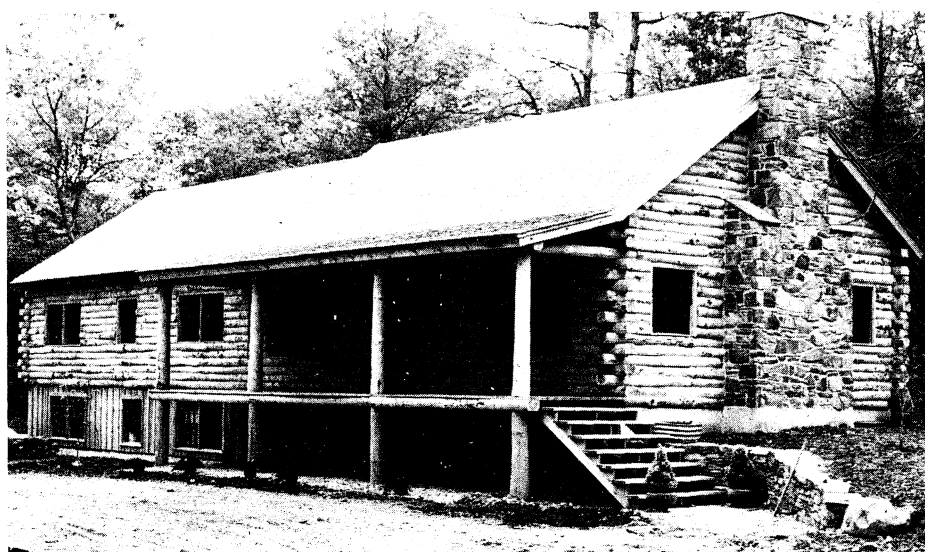
A wildlife sanctuary with nature trails and a pet cemetery will be located on the 30 acres.

The Center will be formally dedicated on Sept. 21.

A featured speaker at the dedication ceremonies will be HSUS President John A. Hoyt. Other speakers will include Connecticut state offi-

Living Memorials

The new HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center offers an ideal opportunity for humanitarians to memorialize deceased friends, relatives, or pets in a manner that will serve animal welfare on an ongoing basis. Write for MEMORIAL INFORMATION, Box 98, East Haddam, Ct. 06423.



HSUS Norma Terris Humane Education and Nature Center

cials, representatives of New England animal welfare, ecological, and conservation groups, and stage and screen star Norma Terris, who donated the land for the Center.

A balloon ascension and buffet luncheon are also scheduled on dedication day.

HSUS members and friends are invited to visit the Center at any time. Motel accommodations are available near the Center, which is located between Interstate Hwys. 91 and 95.

The HSUS New England Regional Office has a new phone number. It is (203) 434-8666.

HSUS Spurs Zoo Improvements

Pressure from HSUS has resulted in a proposal by the mayor of Springfield, Mass., to make \$2 million worth of improvements in Springfield's Forest Park Zoo.

HSUS investigators threatened this spring to charge Mayor William C. Sullivan with cruelty to animals unless he took immediate and drastic action to correct unsatisfactory conditions at the zoo.

A few weeks later, Sullivan proposed that the city provide \$1 million for improvements if the Forest Park Zoological Society can provide an equal amount.

One of the zoo's most serious problems has been the existence of a bovine strain of tuberculosis among the hoof stock. The strain was discovered after a Barbary sheep died from tuberculosis last January.

HSUS wildlife specialist Sue Pressman blamed the zoo's problems on the apathy of municipal officials and Springfield residents, who had failed

to demonstrate the concern and financial support necessary to transform the zoo into a viable animal exhibition.

Mrs. Pressman visited the zoo at the request of John Dommers, education director of the HSUS New England Region, who found little improvement in conditions on several successive trips. She agreed with Dommers that the zoo is in flagrant violation of the Animal Welfare Act of 1970, which established standards and a licensing system for zoos. The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture's veterinarian charged with enforcing the law in Massachusetts refused to issue Forest Park Zoo a license and recommended to his superiors in Washington that it be charged with violating the act.

HSUS believes the first objective of any zoo must be to educate people about the habits and traits of animals.

"We Must Unite"

In a series of speeches to humane groups throughout New England, Rear Admiral James C. Shaw, HSUS New England regional director, has urged humanitarians, regardless of their specialized interests, to open ranks to *all* humane-minded people, whether or not they share that specialized interest.

"We all know that humanitarians are of an independent nature and frequently dedicated to 'doing their own thing,'" Shaw said. "However, if our goals are to be achieved, we must unite."

Shaw urged his audiences to do whatever suits their individual temperaments and capabilities but to work with and have tolerance for humanitarians whose background and means of action are different.

Shaw said HSUS is an ideal forum and vehicle for all humanitarians, because it embraces literally all facets of the humane movement.

LEGISLATION *Continued*

necticut legislature and signed into law, in spite of protests from humanitarians.

Maine

School Experimentation—a bill to permit the vivisection of animals in secondary schools was defeated. HSUS New England Regional Director James C. Shaw appeared by invi-

tation before the legislature's Education Committee to present HSUS's opposition to such activity.

Bounties—a bill to place a bounty on the Northeastern coyote was defeated.

Hunting—a bill to permit hunting of moose was defeated.

Rhode Island

Dog Racing—bills have been in-

troduced to legalize it, and HSUS believes they can be defeated only if all animal welfare, conservationist, community preservation, and anti-gambling groups work together.

New England in General

Several states are exploring means of establishing a veterinary medical school in New England. Connecticut has appropriated money for a study of feasibility.



CENTER FACILITIES—Features of the new HSUS Center in Connecticut include a humane education resource

library (left) and two meeting rooms, such as the one at right.